

2015 Virginia General Assembly Re-Cap



Norfolk City Council Informal Session
March 10, 2015

Presentation Overview

- 2015 Virginia General Assembly Overview
- Norfolk's 2015 Requests / Priorities Report
- Governor's Transportation Omnibus Highlights
- Ethics Reform Overview
- Reconvened / Veto Session

2015 Virginia General Assembly Overview

- Adjourned early...comparatively uneventful Session.
- Bi-partisan budget agreement reached...
- Noteworthy transportation reform initiatives...
- Regulatory framework established for Transportation Network Companies...
- Ethics reform...

Norfolk's 2015 General Assembly Requests / Priorities

1. Enhanced school accreditation and teacher/student performance support.
2. Recurrent flooding and sea-level rise.
3. Improved Public Transportation & Mobility.
4. Local/Regional Economic Diversification.
5. Hold harmless from additional state funding cuts.
6. Greater state partnership/support for veterans and homeless programs.
7. Statewide Stormwater Local Assistance Fund.
8. Restore State Aid to Localities.

Enhanced school accreditation and teacher/student performance support.

Several bills and budget amendments were introduced accomplishing Council's request:

- Virginia Preschool Initiative.
- VDOE criteria for professional development of teachers & principals for unaccredited schools.
- Kindergarten Readiness Program Assessment.
- Demonstration grant for Norfolk & Petersburg Teacher Residency Partnership.
- Funding eligibility for extending school year.

Enhanced Recurrent Flooding & Sea-Level Rise Support

Several bills and budget amendments were introduced accomplishing Council's request:

- Joint General Assembly Study Committee on Recurrent Flooding.
- Funding for ground source well data.
- Enhanced real estate disclosure and real-estate agent continuing education training requirements.
- Enhanced partnership for living shorelines.

Improved Public Transportation & Mobility

Several bills and budget amendments were introduced accomplishing Council's request:

- Governor's Transportation Omnibus / HB 1887 (Jones)
- Bike/Pedestrian Trails HB 1402 (Loupassi) / SB 1376 (Chafin)
- SB 1208 (Wagner)-Norfolk's unspent urban allocation

Local / Regional Economic Diversification

Several bills and budget amendments were introduced accomplishing Council's request:

- Virginia Housing Trust Fund
- Restoration of Enterprise Zone Grant Program
- Brownfield Restoration Fund
- Governor's Opportunity Fund

Hold Harmless from additional State Funding Cuts

Several bills and budget amendments were introduced accomplishing Council's request:

- Aid to Localities restored for FY 16
 - Saves Norfolk from a 1.4 million
- HB 599 Police Funding
 - FY 15 and FY 16 shall equal FY 14.
- Virginia Preschool Initiative Hold Harmless

Greater Partnership /Support for Veterans and Homelessness

Several bills and budget amendments were introduced accomplishing Council's request:

- Veteran Employment Grants.
- Virginia Values Veterans Program Created.
- Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center Funded.

Ethics Legislation

- HB 2070 (Gilbert) and SB 1424 (Norment)
- Places \$100 cap on gifts local government officials
 - **Exceptions:**
 - Food and beverage at widely attended events
 - Gifts from a personal friend of the official
 - Travel paid by third parties if approved by COIA
- Travel paid for by local official's government agency is **NOT** a gift
- Becomes effective January 1, 2016

Reconvened / VETO Session

- The Governor is current considering all bills that have passed the 2015 General Assembly Session.
 - The Governor has four choices:
 - Sign/Approve...
 - Return the bill to the General Assembly with amendments to be considered during the Reconvened Session on April 15, 2015
 - Veto or not approve, which requires 2/3rds
 - Take no action...

Reconvened / VETO Session (cont.)

- Reconvened Session begins on April 15, 2015
- The General Assembly can:
 - Accept the Governor's Amendments
 - Reject the Governor's Amendments
 - Override the Governor's VETO, which requires approval of two-thirds of the members of both houses.
 - Pass bills sent to the Governors and no action was taken.
- Bills that have passed the General Assembly and approved by the Governor become law effective July 1, 2015.